

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 EC BRU 00620 302126Z

12

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /081 W

----- 006747

R 301910Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6364

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 EC BRU 00620 302126Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 0620

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB,HXG, ICFTU

SUBJECT: ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTES TO ADMIT CHRISTIAN UNIONS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) HAS DECIDED TO GRANT FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS TO APPLICATIONS FOR ETUC MEMBERSHIP FROM UNIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (EO/WCL). THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REJECTED A MOVE TO INCLUDE THE FRENCH CGT AND ITALIAN CGIL IN THE DECISION TO EXPAND ETUC MEMBERSHIP BUT VOTED TO CONTINUE "TALKS" WITH CGIL LEADERS WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO CGIL AFFILIATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JANUARY 25, THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTED TO EXTEND ETUC MEMBERSHIP TO EO/WCL UNIONS. UNDER THE TERMS OF THIS DECISION, APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP WILL BE CONSIDERED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS BUT THIS IS NOT CONSIDRED AN OBSTACLE TO THE AFFILIATION OF MOST EO/WCL UNIONS WITH THE TUC. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION ALSO STIPULATES THAT THE EO/WCL WILL CEASE TO EXIST WHEN THE AFFILIATION PROCESS IS CONCLUDED. EO/WCL UNIONS MAY RETAIN THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE WCL BUT THE WCL WILL NOT BE ACCORDED ANY OFFICIAL STATUS WITH THE ETUC. DESPITE THE EXCLUSION OF THE WCL, THE EO/WCL IS EXPECTED TO RATIFY THE ETUC TERMS OF AFFILIATION AT A MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 1.

3. THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTED 16 TO 1 AGAINST A PROPOSAL ADVANCED BY BELGIAN FGTB LEADER GEORGE DEBUNNE WHICH WOULD HAVE GRANTED AFFILIATION RIGHTS TO THE CGT AND CGIL ALONG WITH THE EO/WCL UNIONS. IT WAS AGREED HOWEVER THAT THE ETUC SECRETARIAT WOULD CONTINUE TALKS WITH CGIL LEADERS WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY LEAD TO CGIL AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC.

4. THE OVERWHELMING REJECTION OF DEBUNNE'S PROPOSITION WAS PRIMARILY THE RESULT OF A GERMAN INITIATIVE SPEARHEADED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 EC BRU 00620 302126Z

DGB LEADER VETTER, WHO REPORTEDLY ISSUED A STRONGLY WORDED WARNING TO THE ETUC LEADERSHIP AGAINST THE ADMISSION OF COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONS IN THE ETUC. VETTER, ACCORDING TO ONE PARTICIPANT IN THE MEETING, STRESSED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST LABOR CENTRALS, WHICH THE GERMANS SUPPORT, AND ORGANIC TIES WITH EAST BLOC UNIONS WHICH WOULD POSE A THREAT TO THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT.

5. IN A SEPARATE ACTION, THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVED THE APPLICATION FOR ETUC MEMBERSHIP OF TE 185,000 MEMBER

DANISH CIVIL SERVANT AND FUNCTIONARY UNION (FTF). WITH THE ENTRY OF THE FTF AND EOC/WCL UNIONS THE ETUC WILL REPRESENT ABOUT 25 NATIONAL UNIONS IN 17 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITH A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP APPROXIMATING 30 MILLION.

6. COMMENT: THE DECISIVE VOTE ON THE CGT-CGIL ISSUE IS DECEIVING. DEBUNE IS NOT THE ONLY ETUC LEADER FAVORING ADMISSION TO THE CGT-CGIL. LEADERS OF THE BRITISH TUC AND OTHERS WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED THE DEBUNNE PROPOSITION UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES. THE INTENSITY OF GERMAN OPPOSITION WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A FACTOR IN THE APPARENT DECISION OF THE TUC AND THE OTHER SUPPORTERS NOT TO FORCE THE ISSUE. SUPPORTING DEBUNNE COULD HAVE UNNECESSARILY CAUSED SERIOUS DIVISIONS WITHIN THE ETUC OVER THE COMMUNIST ISSUE AT A TIME WHEN A MAJORITY OF ETUC LEADERS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS OF EVOLVING REALTIONS WITH EAST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CENTERS. WITH THE NOW CERTAIN ENTRY OF EO/WCL UNIONS, WHOSE LEADERS CLEARLY FAVOR CLOSER TIES WITH THE EAST AND WHO GO BEYOND THE DGB'S CONCEPT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, IT WOULD SEEM A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE ETUC POLICIES REGARDING EUROPEAN TRADE UNION UNITY ARE SIGNIFICANTLY REVISED. THE EXPANSION OF THE ETUC COULD ALSO PRECIPITATE FURTHER SLIPPAGE IN THE DECLINING INFLUENCE OF THE ICFTU AND WCL IN EUROPEAN LABOR AFFAIRS.GREENWALD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EAST WEST TRADE, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, EAST WEST SECURITY MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU00620
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974016/aaaaafky.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <12 APR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTES TO ADMIT CHRISTIAN UNIONS
TAGS: ELAB, XG, ICFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005